

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Process for preparing a moulding composition comprising melt-mixing a thermoplastic polymer, a non-metallic fibrous reinforcing agent and elementary iron having a weight average particle size of at most 450 µm to form a composition, wherein the thermoplastic polymer forms a continuous phase and is a semi-crystalline or crystalline polymer having a melting temperature of at least 180°C or an amorphous polymer having a glass transition temperature of at least 180°C, and wherein the elementary iron is present in the composition in an amount between 0.01 to 20 parts by weight (pbw) relative to 100 pbw of the thermoplastic polymer.
2. (original) Process according to claim 1, wherein the elementary iron has a weight average particle size of at most 250 µm.
3. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the elementary iron is added in the form of a masterbatch comprising finely dispersed elementary iron in a carrier polymer.
4. (previously presented) Process according to claim 3, wherein each of the carrier polymer and the thermoplastic polymer is a polyamide.
5. (canceled)
6. (currently amended) A moulding composition comprising a thermoplastic polymer as a continuous phase, a non-metallic fibrous reinforcing agent and a heat stabilizer in the form of finely dispersed elementary iron having a weight average particle size of at most 450 µm, wherein the elementary iron is present in the composition in an amount between 0.01 to 20 parts by weight (pbw)

relative to 100 pbw of the thermoplastic polymer, and wherein the thermoplastic polymer is a semi-crystalline or crystalline polymer having a melting temperature of at least 180°C or an amorphous polymer having a glass transition temperature of at least 180°C.

7. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 6, comprising
 - a. 100 pbw thermoplastic polymer,
 - b. 5-300 pbw non-metallic fibrous reinforcing agent,
 - c. 0.01-20 pbw finely dispersed elementary iron, and
 - d. 0-30 pbw of a carrier polymer.
8. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 6, wherein the composition further comprises at least a filler or another additive.
9. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 6, consisting of
 - a. 94.95-29.95 mass % thermoplastic polymer,
 - b. 5-70 mass % non-metallic fibrous reinforcing agent,
 - c. 0.05-16 mass % finely dispersed elementary iron,
 - d. 0-16 mass % a carrier polymer,
 - e. 0-69.95 mass % inorganic filler and
 - f. 0-16 mass % other additive, wherein
the mass % are relative to the total mass of the composition, the total amount of (b+c+e) is at most 75 mass %, relative to the total mass of the composition, the total amount of (d+f) is at most 30 mass %, relative to the total amount of (a+d+f) and the total amount of (a+b+c+d+e+f) is equal to 100 mass%.
10. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 6, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is an aliphatic polyamide, having a HDT, measured according to ISO 75/A, of at least 220 °C, and having a tensile strength and/or elongation at break, tested on a test bar with a thickness of 4 mm in a tensile test

according to ISO 527 at 23°C, which is retained for at least 60% after heat-ageing for 800 hours at 215°C.

11. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 6, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is a semi-aromatic polyamide, having a HDT, measured according to ISO 75/A, of 250°C or higher, and having a tensile strength and/or elongation at break, tested on a test bar with a thickness of 4 mm in a tensile test according to ISO 527 at 23°C, which is retained for at least 50% after heat-ageing for 800 hours at 230°C.
12. (previously presented) Composition according to claim 6, wherein the elementary iron is present in an amount between 5 to 10 pbw relative to 100 parts by weight of the thermoplastic polymer.
13. (previously presented) Moulded part comprising a composition according to claim 7.
14. (original) Assembled article comprising a moulded part according to claim 13.
15. (canceled)
16. (previously presented) Electric or electronic installation comprising a moulded part according to claim 13.
17. (original) A machine, engine, an electric or electronic installation comprising a moulded part according to claim 13.
18. (previously presented) Automotive vehicle, general transport means, domestic appliance, or general industry installation, comprising a moulded part according to claim 13.
19. (previously presented) Electric or electronic installation comprising an assembled article according to claim 14.

GIJSMAN et al
Serial No. 10/563,378
March 17, 2009

20. (previously presented) Automotive vehicle, general transport means, domestic appliance, or general industry installation, comprising a machine or engine according to claim 17.